

CLAIMS

1 1. An inflatable cuff for use with a trocar inserted within an
2 abdominal cavity, the trocar exhibiting a hollowed interior and including an
3 upper funnel portion and an interconnecting and downwardly extending sleeve
4 portion, said cuff comprising:

5 said cuff exhibiting a flexible and inflatable annular shape and being
6 constructed of a fluid-tight material;

7 said cuff securing in an initially deflated condition at a location about
8 the sleeve portion of the trocar, said cuff being subsequently inflated after
9 insertion of said sleeve within a patient's abdominal cavity and insufflation of
10 the cavity, said cuff maintaining a sealed condition within the abdominal cavity
11 during insertion of the trocar.

1 2. The inflatable cuff according to claim 1, further comprising a
2 port extending through said trocar from a first location outside of the patient's
3 abdominal cavity to a second location in communication with said cuff, a fluid
4 line extending through said port to said cuff and communicating a pressurized
5 gas to inflate said cuff.

1 3. The inflatable cuff according to claim 1, further comprising said
2 cuff capable of being retrofitted to a variety of different trocar devices.

1 4. The inflatable cuff according to claim 1, the trocar having a
2 specified shape and size, further comprising a laparoscope inserting through an
3 open interior of the trocar and into the abdominal cavity.

1 5. The inflatable cuff according to claim 2, further comprising a
2 modified port located at a first extending end of said fluid line, said port
3 capable of receiving an intravenous type tubing in order to provide said cuff
4 and trocar with operating characteristics similar to that of an endotracheal tube.

1 6. An inflatable cuff for use with a trocar inserted within an
2 abdominal cavity, the trocar exhibiting a hollowed interior and including an
3 upper funnel portion and an interconnecting and downwardly extending sleeve
4 portion, said cuff comprising:
5 said cuff exhibiting a flexible and inflatable annular shape and being
6 constructed of a fluid-tight material;
7 said cuff securing in an initially deflated condition at a location about
8 the sleeve portion of the trocar, a fluid line extending through a port in said
9 trocar and to a location along said cuff, said cuff being inflated after insertion
10 of said sleeve within a patient's abdominal cavity to maintain a sealed
11 condition within the abdominal cavity.